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ST. NEOTS  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



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THE  
ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
Medical Officer of Health  
and  
Surveyor & Chief Sanitary  
Inspector  
FOR THE YEAR  
1947.



# St. Neots Urban District Council

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## ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1947,

BY

EDWARD T. SHENNAN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

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Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1947. In doing so, I wish to thank members of the Council and Staff for the co-operation and consideration they have extended toward me in my first six months of office.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

EDWARD T. SHENNAN.

### STAFF.

#### MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH.

E. J. CROSS, T.D., M.D., D.P.H. (resigned 30th June, 1947).

E. T. SHENNAN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (appointed 7th July, 1947)

Telephone: Huntingdon 673 and St. Ives 2306.

#### SANITARY INSPECTOR, SURVEYOR AND MEAT INSPECTOR.

C. W. GLOVER, M.R.S.Ins., M.S.I.A.

Telephone: St. Neots 122 and 108.

#### WATERWORKS ENGINEER.

W. W. MAWBY. Telephone: St. Neots 122.

#### STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area.			
St. Neots	...	...	996 acres.
Eynesbury	...	...	395 acres.
Total			1,391 acres.

## THE NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES:—

St. Neots:							
Private Houses	...	...	...	...	...	876	
Shops, etc., with private houses attached	...	...	...	...	...	105	
							981
Eynesbury:							
Private Houses	...	...	...	...	...	402	
Shops, etc., with private houses attached	...	...	...	...	...	16	
							418
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,399

## CENSUS, 1931:—

St. Neots—Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	830
Eynesbury—	...	...	...	323
Rateable Value of the District at 31st December, 1947	...	...	...	£25,178
Value of a penny Rate	...	...	...	£100

## VITAL STATISTICS.

Estimated population (Mid 1946)	...	...	...	4,709
Estimated population (Mid 1947)	...	...	...	4,740
Census, 1931—population	4,377	(St Neots 3,081, Eynesbury 1,296)		

## LIVE BIRTHS.

					Total.	M.	F.
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	80	33	47
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	5	2	3
Total Live Births	...	...	...	...	85	35	50

BIRTH RATE per 1,000 estimated population 17.9

Ditto „ „ (England Wales) ... 20.5

## STILL BIRTHS.

STILLBIRTH RATE per 1,000 estimated population ... 0.2

Ditto per 1,000 (England and Wales) ... 0.5

DEATHS (ALL AGES) ... 59 34 25

DEATH RATE per 1,000 estimated population 12.4

Ditto „ „ (England and Wales) 12.0

## DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES:

No. 29. Puerperal and post. abort. sepsis	...	Nil
No. 30. Other maternal causes	...	Nil

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR ... 5 3 2

## DEATH RATES of infants under 1 year:—

All infants per 1,000 live births ... 58.8

Ditto per 1,000 (England and Wales) ... 41

Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ... 62.5

Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ... 0

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ... 8 5 3

Deaths from Measles (all ages) ... Nil

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ... Nil

Deaths from Diarrhoea (0—2 years) ... 1 1 0

## CAUSES OF DEATHS:—

(Registrar General's Short List.)

No.		M.	F.	Total.
6.	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ... ..	—	1	1
9.	Influenza ... ..	2	1	3
14.	Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum ... ..	—	1	1
16.	Cancer of all other sites ... ..	5	2	7
17.	Diabetes ... ..	1	—	1
18.	Intracranial Vascular lesions ... ..	2	2	4
19.	Heart Disease ... ..	7	4	11
20.	Other diseases of circulatory system ... ..	1	—	1
21.	Bronchitis ... ..	1	2	3
22.	Pneumonia ... ..	3	1	4
25.	Diarrhoea under 2 years ... ..	1	—	1
27.	Other digestive disorders ... ..	1	—	1
28.	Nephritis ... ..	1	—	1
31.	Premature birth ... ..	—	1	1
32.	Congenital mal.; birth inj.; infant disease ...	2	1	3
33.	Suicide ... ..	—	1	1
34.	Road Traffic Accidents ... ..	1	—	1
35.	Other violent causes ... ..	1	2	3
36.	All other causes ... ..	5	6	11
		—	—	—
		34	25	59
		—	—	—

### GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

As certain modifications of the existing health services for the district and alteration in the authorities administering them will follow the coming into force of the National Health Service Act, 1946, on July 5th, 1948, existing services will be detailed fairly fully for comparison at a later date.

#### (a) *Laboratory Facilities.*

The following laboratory facilities are available to this Authority and to General Practitioners in the area.

Public Health Laboratory Service, Tennis Court Road, Cambridge. Tel.: Cambridge 55526.

Public Analyst (S. Greenburgh, Ph.D., B.Sc., F.I.C.), Tennison Road, Cambridge. Tel.: Cambridge 2097.

#### (b) *Ambulance Facilities.*

(1) An Ambulance for Infectious Cases is available at the Isolation Hospital, Huntingdon. Tel.: Huntingdon 59.

(2) An Ambulance maintained by St. Neots U.D.C. is available at the St. Neots U.D.C. Council Offices, Huntingdon Street, St. Neots.

(3) Ambulances are available for non-infectious and accident cases at the Huntingdon County Council Ambulance Depot, Trinity Place, Hartford Road, Huntingdon.

Tel.: Huntingdon 67.

#### (c) HOME NURSING.

Two Nurse/Midwives appointed by the St. Neots and Eynesbury District Nursing Association carry out Home Nursing and attend Maternity cases within the District.

The following is the report to the Medical Officer of Health from the president of the St. Neots and Eynesbury District Nursing Association:—



The Shrubbery,  
St. Neots,  
Hunts.

Dear Dr. Shennan,

As requested here is the number of cases attended by the St. Neots and Eynesbury District Nurses during the past year:—

	Maternity	...	...	...	50
	Midwifery	...	...	...	18
	General	...	...	...	99
Visits:					
	Maternity	...	...	...	304
	Midwifery	...	...	...	274
	Ante-Natal	...	...	...	345
	General	...	...	...	1,835
	Casual	...	...	...	440

The Nurses do not report anything unusual during the year.  
The Red Cross have kindly offered to attend any general cases whenever our Nurses are very busy.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) EVELYN POVEY,  
President,  
St. Neots and Eynesbury District  
Nursing Association.

#### (d) CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

(1) The following health services are provided by the Huntingdon County Council:—

Clinic.	Patients Seen.	Where Held.	When Held.
Minor Ailments	School Children	Liberal Club, St. Neots	1st Thursday in month (M.O. present)— every other Thursday, School Nurse only, 10-11.30 a.m.
		Old Grammar School, Huntingdon	Every Monday, 9.30—10.30 a.m.
Infant Welfare	Children (0—5 years)	Liberal Club, St. Neots	Every Thursday, 2—4 p.m.
Dental	Pre-School and School Children; Pre-Natal and Nursing Mothers	Red Cross Room, High Street, St. Neots	3rd Thursday in month, 10—12 noon, 2—3 p.m. Gas Clinic, 4th Tues. in month (by appointment).
		Dental Clinic, Princes Street, Huntingdon	Every Wednesday and Saturday, 10—12 noon.
Ophthalmic	Pre-school and School children	Old Grammar School, Huntingdon	1st and 3rd Friday in month (by appointment except in emergency).
Orthopædic	Ditto	Ditto	2nd and 4th Tuesday in month (by appointment).
Pædiatric	Ditto	Ditto	3rd Wednesday in month (by appointment).

Clinic.	Patients Seen.	Where Held.	When Held.
Chest	All ages	County Hospital, Huntingdon	Every Thursday, 10 a.m. to 12 noon.
Venereal Diseases	All cases	Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge 28, Fitzwilliam Street, Peterborough	Tuesdays, 3 p.m. and Thursdays, 7 p.m. Males: Weds. and Fridays, 4—6 p.m. Females: Fridays, 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

Cases of Tuberculosis, when notified, are investigated by the County Medical Officer.

(2) Medical, Surgical, Orthopædic, Skin, Obstetrical, Gynaecological and Dental out-patients' Clinics are held at Huntingdon County Hospital, and Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, to which General Practitioners can refer their patients for Specialist investigation.

### (3) THE BRITISH RED CROSS PHYSIOTHERAPY CLINIC.

This Clinic, opened in September, 1946, with a well-qualified masseuse in attendance, supplies treatment including Massage, Swedish Remedial Exercises, Radiant Heat, Ultra-Violet Ray, Infra Red and Wax Baths, where prescribed by a doctor.

The following is a report on the work of the Clinic during 1947 by the Vice-President, St. Neots Branch, British Red Cross:—

“The Clinic at St. Neots continues to be of great help to the residents and neighbouring villages. The number of patients receiving treatment increases each month and has now reached an average of 55.6 patients a month. Fortunately the number of satisfactory results achieved enables discharge to take place in corresponding numbers, otherwise the work would be more than one physiotherapist could do. Everything appears to be running quite smoothly and the patients are very grateful to have a clinic near at hand instead of involving the journeys to Huntingdon and Cambridge, as in the past.

“Signed. M. MACDONELL (Mrs.).”

### (e) Hospitals.

*Fever.*—The Joint Hospital Board provides facilities for investigation and treatment of infectious diseases at Huntingdon Isolation Hospital. All Huntingdonshire Sanitary Districts contribute to the maintenance of this hospital through their rates.

*General Hospital Service.*—These are provided by the County Hospital, Huntingdon, and Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge—both Voluntary Hospitals.

*Maternity Cases.*—Where home conditions are unsuitable, these may be admitted for confinement to Huntingdon Institution or the Emergency Maternity Hospital, Paxton Park, both administered by the Huntingdon County Council.

Where hospital treatment is necessary or desirable, maternity cases can be received in the County Hospital, Huntingdon, or the Emergency Maternity Hospital, Paxton Park.

## INCIDENCE OF DISEASE, 1947.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following were notified:—

Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	12
Measles	...	...	...	130
Erysipelas	...	...	...	3
Jaundice	...	...	...	11
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	39
Pneumonia	...	...	...	2
				197

The number is higher than 1946 (69) in the main due to the large number of measles cases. This can be put down to the usual biennial increase in this disease.

A remarkable fact was the absence of an outbreak of communicable intestinal disorders following the severe flooding in March of the year, during which pail closets floated through the yards and well supplies of water were in danger of contamination.

## DIPHTHERIA.

From figures available, approximately 66.8 per cent. of the child population (0 to 15 years) of the town have received a full course of primary injections against diphtheria. A further investigation shows that *only 42.6 per cent. of the pre-school children (0 to 5 years) are so protected.* These figures do not include immunisations carried out privately by general practitioners.

This is *not* a satisfactory state of affairs.

Diphtheria is essentially a school-spread disease—infected pupils passing the complaint to their fellows and to other members of their families *of whom the pre-school children (0—5 years) are in greatest danger.* Few deaths occur among the immunised. When deaths do occur, a very large proportion are in cases who have not been adequately protected. It is generally considered that at least 70 per cent. protection of pre-school children is necessary before it can be hoped to stamp out the disease.

The aim, therefore, should be the primary immunisation (2 injections) of *all* pre-school children within their first two years, followed (as the effects of this course tends to wear off after a few years) by a “re-inforcing” or “booster” injection at school entrance age (5 years).

Facilities for Primary Immunisation are available at Infant Welfare Clinics. Arrangements for Booster doses can be made through the schools. Both Primary and Booster injections can be carried out by the child's own doctor.

## TUBERCULOSIS.

Total on Register at 31st December, 1947—23 (Pulmonary 14, Non-Pulmonary 9).

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
15 ...	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—
25 ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
35 ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
45 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & upwards	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—



No action was found to be necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, in connection with persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, which deals with the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

### GENERAL SANITARY CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

## FLOODING.

Prior to my appointment, the town experienced, in March, the worst flood of the last 100 years. Over 600 premises, the majority dwelling houses, were affected—flooding varying up to a depth of 6 feet.

Details of premises affected:—

Dwelling Houses	...	...	...	...	447
Business Premises (including Inns and Hotels)					181
Total	...	...	...	...	628

Emergency measures for the supply of food to marooned families were instituted, greatly aided by the help of the British Red Cross. Precautionary boiling of water for drinking purposes was advised and when the flood water subsided help was given in drying-out and disinfection of premises.

It is a remarkable feature of this event that no deleterious consequences to the public health were evidenced—intestinal disorder might well have been expected from contamination of water supplies and food-stuffs.

Over £8,000 was paid out as compensation through various flood-relief funds.

## WATER.

St. Neots and Eynesbury are supplied by two established wells (Nos. 1 and 2) and one emergency well (No. 3) sunk into the gravel. These wells are situate near the South-West Boundary of the Parish of Eynesbury. Pumping direct into the mains is done by an oil engine at No. 1 Pumping Station and by an automatic electrical installation at No. 2 Pumping Station. The emergency well was sunk in 1944.

A new scheme is contemplated to develop a permanent pumping station at the site of the emergency well.

The supply of water has been sufficient in quantity with the use when required of No. 3 well. The quality of the water is satisfactory.

Samples of raw water taken for bacteriological examination during 1947 :—

				Number of Samples.	Dates.	Remarks
No. 1	Well	...	...	2	11/4/47, 17/12/47	All
No. 2	Well	...	...	2	11/4/47, 17/12/47	Satisfactory.
No. 3	Well	...	...	1	17/12/47	

No samples were taken for chemical analysis.

Estimated number of houses supplied	direct from main	...	...	1,092
" " " "	by 42 standpipes	...	...	127
" " " "	by public or private wells	...	...	180
Estimated population supplied from	main	...	...	3,696
" " " "	standpipes	...	...	432
" " " "	wells	...	...	612

Average daily consumption from main water supply, 163,000 gallons,  
i.e., 33 gallons per head per day of total estimated population.

## DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

During the year plans for a joint Sewerage Scheme with Bedfordshire Rural District for the complete re-sewering of St. Neots, Eynesbury, Eaton Socon and other adjacent parishes in the Bedfordshire Rural District were submitted by the Consultant Engineer. Owing to there being difference of opinion as to the relative merits of alternative sites for the Disposal Works, no progress can be reported in the year.

The existing sewerage, drainage and disposal system of the town is totally inadequate, antiquated and unsatisfactory. Most of the sewers are of the old brick-culvert type and the main disposal system consists of large septic tanks from which the effluent flows direct to the river.

## HOUSING.

The housing shortage, with resulting overcrowding of existing premises, remains acute. The rehousing of several families living in requisitioned property previously scheduled for demolition must be the primary and urgent concern of the Council. In certain cases where these insanitary dwellings are far from weatherproof, the necessity for rapid action cannot be overstressed.

19 new Council houses have been completed and occupied during 1947. A further 19 are in process of erection.

No houses have been built by private enterprise during the year.

Damage is still coming to light in the form of dry rot in the ground floor rooms of many of the houses flooded in March of the year.

## INSPECTION OF FOOD.

Routine inspections were carried out as in the past years. The report of the Meat Inspector is included in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

## ST. NEOTS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

### SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

#### ANNUAL REPORT, 1947.

Public Health Department,  
Council Offices,  
St. Neots.

To the Medical Officer of Health.

I beg to submit the following report of the work of my department on matters appertaining to Public Health during the year 1947:—

## FLOODING.

The serious flooding of the district during the month of March caused considerable upset to the normal life of the town. Torrential rains and the rapid thaw of snow caused the greatest flood within living memory, and the flood level reached a height of over 8 feet above normal river level. Whereas in previous floods the water has receded fairly quickly, on this occasion the greater part of the area affected remained flooded for over a week.

Over 50 houses were flooded, varying in depth from 4 feet to 6 feet, and well over 200 premises were flooded to a depth of 2 feet 6 inches and over.

Although precautionary measures were taken to protect food stuffs, it was impossible to place all the food above the abnormally high level reached by the water, and it was inevitable that a certain amount of food was contaminated—approximately 2,000 lbs. of various foods had to be condemned as unfit for human consumption.

Soap and disinfectant were distributed to the householders of affected dwellings, and the high morale of these people was remarkable and should be recorded.

During the peak of the flood many families were isolated in the first floor rooms of their houses, and food and drinking water were supplied to them by lorry or by amphibious tank where the level of the water demanded such action.

#### AMBULANCE.

A 24-hourly service was maintained throughout the year, and the ambulance is stationed and satisfactorily operated from the Council Offices. The service proved adequate for the general needs of the area. 57 journeys were made involving 1,545 miles.

#### MORTUARY.

The mortuary situated on the east side of the new St. Neots Cemetery has been used as and when required, and the post-mortem facilities provided have been satisfactory. The provision of gas or electricity to the premises would be more reliable than the "Calor Gas" lighting and heating installation now in use.

#### WATER SUPPLY.

Very little progress has been made during the year on the new proposed Scheme, which consists of the sinking of a new well and the installation of new pumping plant. At no time during the year has the water supply failed, but only by the use of the emergency well has an adequate supply been possible.

Considerable anxiety was felt as to the purity and safety of the water supply during the month of March, when the River Ouse overflowed its banks and a large area of the Urban District, including the area where the wells are situated, was flooded.

No complaints of the water being contaminated were forthcoming, however, and no adverse reports of the water samples sent to the Public Health Laboratories for bacteriological examination were received. The private wells in the district are being slowly discarded, and the premises concerned connected to the mains supply.

#### PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The collection and disposal of household and trade refuse is satisfactorily carried out by direct labour. One motor refuse lorry (Karrrier Bantam), supplemented by a horse and cart when necessary, are employed on this work.

All waste paper is sorted and baled, and scrap metal is stacked for periodic removal by the respective salvage merchants.

The cost of collection and disposal of refuse was approximately 12s. per bin per annum.

#### DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Difficulty in finding a suitable site for the sewage disposal works has held up the belated and long overdue Sewerage Scheme for the Urban District. Several alternative sites have been reported upon by the Consultant Engineers, Messrs. John Taylor & Sons, and it would appear that the final choice agreed upon by the two District Councils, the Bedford Rural District Council and the St. Neots Urban District Council, will be subject to strong opposition from the owners and occupier of the land concerned. The main point in favour of the selected site is that it is downstream of the river in relation to the town.

Several pail closets have been converted to the water carriage system during the year, but until the new sewerage system has been constructed, little headway can be made in the conversion of over 500 pail closets in the district.



Great difficulty has been experienced during the year to find the right type of labour required for emptying the night soil buckets to the houses, and a serious breakdown in the maintenance of this essential service was threatened due to the failure of the men employed to carry out these duties in a proper manner. The situation has now improved, but it is imperative that urgent steps are taken to provide an efficient and adequate sewerage system and disposal plant as soon as possible.

#### LIST OF FACTORIES.

Tebbutt, C. G., High Street, Sawmill.  
 Bennett, J., Bedford Street, Motor Repairs.  
 Hunts. Motor Company, Cambridge Street, Motor Engineers.  
 Huckle, C. H., New Street, Boot Repairs.  
 Hale, J., High Street, Laundry.  
 Ibbett, A., South Street, Engineer.  
 Ireland Bros., New Street, Motors.  
 James, Mrs. E., Electric Gen., The Pavilion.  
 Jordan & Addington, L.N.E.R. Station, Grist.  
 Jordan & Addington, Market Place, Seeds.  
 Jordan & Addington, The Priory, Grinding.  
 Jordan & Addington, St. Mary's Street, Mineral Waters.  
 Fields & Pateman, Huntingdon Street, Motors.  
 Lynn, H. W., High Street, Machine Repairs.  
 St. Neots Gas Company, Bedford Street, Gas Works.  
 St. Neots Co-operative Society, Huntingdon Street, Bakers.  
 Paine & Co., Bedford Street, Flour Mill.  
 Paine & Co., Bedford Street, Malting.  
 Paine & Co., Bedford Street, Malt.  
 Paine & Co., Brook Street, Malt Extract.  
 Paine & Co., Brook Street, Bottling.  
 Paine & Co., Market Place, Flour.  
 Paine & Co., Market Place, Brewery.  
 A. Wheeler, Priory Café, Market Place, Baker.  
 Tomson & Lendrum Ltd., Market Square, Printing Works.  
 Tebbutt, C. G., St. Mary's Street, Sawmill.  
 Wright & Woods, Market Place, Motors.  
 Williamson, T. L., The Priory, Coach Work.  
 St. Neots Paper Mill, Common Road, Paper.  
 Smith, John Rayns, High Street, Bakery, etc.  
 Bull, H. F. and Sons, New Street, Contractors.  
 Wrycroft, G. and Sons, Huntingdon Street, Contractors.  
 Cattmull, Cambridge Street, Boot Repairs.  
 Pratt, P. W., Cambridge Street, Baker.  
 Plum & Sons, High Street, Confectioners.

#### LIST OF WORKSHOPS.

Browning, R. W., Tin Plate, etc., Market Square.  
 Baker, B., Huntingdon Street, Baker.  
 Clayton, Saddlers, etc., Market Square.  
 Evans and Sons, Builders, Cambridge Street.  
 Edwards H., Baker, Luke Street.  
 Forscutt, R. M., Dress, Brook Street.  
 Knight, F. J., Coal Yard, Priory Road.  
 Kime and Co., Tailors, High Street.  
 Gibbard, Baker, St. Mary's Street, Eynesbury.  
 Pashley, A., Motor Repairs, Cambridge Street.  
 Riseley, F. G. (Exors.), Draper, High Street.  
 Shepherd, Baker, South Street.  
 Townsend Bros., Builders, Cambridge Street.  
 T. W. Wren, Fish Fryer, Montague Street, Eynesbury.  
 F. W. Bellamy, Builder, Priory Road.  
 A. W. Childs, Painter, etc., Church Street.  
 Corbey, J. and H., New Street, Plumbers.

Eayrs, W., Cycles and Radio, Market Square.  
 Ashman, H., Cycles, etc., Cambridge Street.  
 P. J. Williamson, Cycles, South Street.  
 Webb, Shoe Repairs, Cambridge Street.  
 Electrical and Radio Supplies, Ltd., High Street.  
 Hunter, Cleaning and Pressing, South Street.

#### LIST OF HAIRDRESSERS.

Abnett, Cambridge Street, St. Neots.  
 Murkett, Huntingdon Street, St. Neots.  
 Downes, High Street, St. Neots.  
 Sawford, Market Square, St. Neots.  
 Flanders, Market Square, St. Neots.  
 Mrs. Cotterell, High Street, St. Neots.  
 Miss J. R. Ashcroft (Jane), 52, High Street.  
 New Inn Hotel, Hairdressing Salon, High Street.

#### Summary of Inspections made during 1947:—

Total number of Inspections made	...	...	...	...	...	509
Total number of Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	63
(Informal 63, Statutory —.)						
Complaints received	...	...	Total number of	...	...	201
Premises, houses, etc.	...	...	Number inspected	...	...	509
			Nuisances abated	...	...	192
Pool, ditch, gutter, watercourse			Number inspected	...	...	31
			Nuisances abated	...	...	4
Animals improperly kept	...	...	Number inspected	...	...	1
			Nuisances abated	...	...	1
Privy, urinal, cesspool ashpit			Number inspected	...	...	17
			Nuisances abated	...	...	7
Drain, drain-traps, etc., etc...			Number inspected	...	...	64
			Nuisances abated	...	...	40
House, or part thereof, over-crowded	...	...	Number inspected	...	...	3
			Nuisances abated	...	...	1
Smoke nuisances	...	...	Number of observations	...	...	4
			Nuisances abated	...	...	1
Offensive accumulations	...	...	Number inspected	...	...	17
			Nuisances abated	...	...	17
Other sanitary conditions	...	...	Number inspected	...	...	160
			Nuisances abated	...	...	121
Lodging houses	...	...	Number registered	...	...	—
			Number of inspections	...	...	—
Slaughter houses	...	...	Number licensed or registered	...	...	1
			(Ministry of Food)			
			Number of inspections			
			(visited almost daily re			
			Meat Inspection)			
Offensive trades (sec. 107, Public Health Act, 1936)	...	...	Number established	...	...	1
			Number of inspections	...	...	4
Canal boats	...	...	Number registered	...	...	—
			Number of inspections	...	...	—
			Number with infectious diseases on board	...	...	—
Housing Act, 1936	...	...	Number houses condemned	...	...	1
			Number closed	...	...	1
			Number cleansed and lime-washed	...	...	—



Food—seizures of unwholesome	Number of	...	...	...	—
Infectious disease ... ..	Houses affected with	...	...	...	8
	Houses inspected	...	...	...	8
	Number of inspections	...	...	...	16
	Houses disinfected	...	...	...	8
	Schools	...	...	...	—
	Disinfectant used	Formaldehyde	...	...	—
	Lots of clothing disinfected	...	...	...	—
	Lots of clothing destroyed	...	...	...	—
Privy middens ... ..	New provided	...	...	...	—
	Number repaired	...	...	...	—
	Number converted to pails	...	...	...	—
	Number converted to W.C.s	...	...	...	—
Pail or earth closets ... ..	New provided	...	...	...	—
	Number converted to W.C.s	...	...	...	6
Water closets ... ..	New provided	...	...	...	—
	Number supplied with water	...	...	...	—
Ashpits ... ..	New provided	...	...	...	—
	Number converted to ashbins	...	...	...	4
Ashbins ... ..	New provided	...	...	...	7
Water supply ... ..	Samples taken for analysis	...	...	...	5
	(for bacteriological examination)	...	...	...	—
	Samples condemned	...	...	...	—
	Wells closed	...	...	...	6
	Wells cleansed, repaired, etc.	...	...	...	—
	Public supply substituted	...	...	...	—
	for well or pond	...	...	...	4
	Cisterns cleansed, repaired,	...	...	...	—
	covered	...	...	...	4
	Waste pipes disconnected	...	...	...	—
	from drain	...	...	...	—
Building Bye-Laws adopted ... ..	...	...	...	...	—
Total Legal Proceedings,	...	...	...	...	—
i.e., Summonses, etc.	...	...	...	...	—
Convictions	...	...	...	...	—
Factory and Workshop Act, 1937.					
Factories ... ..	Total number on register	...	...	...	58
	(including bakehouses)...	...	...	...	—
	Number in which nuisance	...	...	...	—
	abated	...	...	...	22
Bakehouses ... ..	Number on register	...	...	...	12
	Number in which nuisance	...	...	...	—
	abated	...	...	...	7
Home-work ... ..	Number of outworkers	...	...	...	—
	Number of houses	...	...	...	—
	Number of infected houses	...	...	...	—
Legal Proceedings,	...	...	...	...	—
i.e., Summonses, etc.	...	...	...	...	—
Convictions	...	...	...	...	—

## HOUSING.

It has not been possible to devote much time to the inspection of existing properties and licensing restrictions on building work have prevented extensive repairs to houses requiring attention. There is no doubt that when the situation regarding the acute shortage of building materials, particularly sanitary fittings, has been overcome, a housing survey will reveal many unsatisfactory conditions.

Progress has been made during the year on the erection of permanent traditional dwellings. 19 have been built, and a further 19 were in course of construction at the end of the year. It is hoped to increase this number during 1948.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Inspections are made regularly of all bakehouses, cowsheds and dairies, ice-cream premises, butchers' shops and food stores. Restaurants and cafes require more supervision, and it would appear that more efficient control over these premises will be possible only if the necessary legislation is passed, particularly in respect of the personal hygiene of the employees engaged on the handling and preparation of food for consumption in restaurants and cafes, including hotels.

The percentage of meat inspected prior to distribution for human consumption was 100 per cent., and this work involved many hours of overtime, including visits to the slaughterhouse on Sundays. There is no doubt that the centralised slaughtering now taking place at the Emergency Government controlled slaughterhouse at Eynesbury has considerably increased the efficiency of meat inspection, and the method is much to be preferred to the previous method of slaughtering in the several licensed and registered slaughterhouses in various parts of the district.

## MEAT INSPECTION REPORT.

Carcases inspected and condemned during year 1947 at the Ministry of Food Slaughterhouse, Eynesbury.

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Total Slaughtered and Inspected ...	1115	293	897	2931	*566
Diseases other than Tuberculosis:—					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	7	2	12	9	3
Parts or Organs of Carcases condemned ...	497	74	4	131	35
Percentage of Carcases affected with diseases other than T.B. ...	45.20	25.94	1.78	4.77	6.32
Carcases affected with Tuberculosis:—					
Whole Carcases condemned ...	4	21	2	—	1
Parts or Organs of Carcases condemned ...	93	89	—	—	16
Percentage of Carcases affected with Tuberculosis ...	8.70	37.54	0.22	—	2.83

\* 35 at Private Slaughterhouse.

Summary of meat and other articles of food which were found to be diseased and unwholesome and were destroyed.

	lbs.
Beef ...	32,993
Veal ...	1,101
Mutton ...	978
Pork ...	1,124
Fish ...	659
Poultry, Game, Rabbits ...	—
Fruit and Tinned Foods ...	142
Miscellaneous ...	1,856
Malt Extract. Damaged by fire and water ...	20,748
Total ...	59,601





